17.   The method of claim 13, wherein said active compound is in the form of an injectable solution delivering between 5 and 20 mg of active compound per day.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein said active compound is in the form of an injectable solution delivering between 5 and 10 mg of active compound per day.--

REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge the examiner's request to correct minor errors throughout the application. When allowable subject matter is indicated, applicants will correct these errors.

OBJECTIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The examiner rejects claim 2 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) because the "applicant is merely repeating the property."

Applicants amend claim 2 to recite "non mitogenic anti-CD3 antibody."

The examiner rejects claim 8 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) because the claim "adds no further limitation to the base claim because it is an inherent property of $F(ab')_2$ fragments in general."

This rejection is now moot, because claim 8 has been cancelled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraph 4, the examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph allegedly because of the alleged indefiniteness associated with the term "principle."

Solely to clarify the claimed invention, the applicants substitute the term "compound" for the term "principle" in claims 1-6 and 13-15.

In paragraph 6, the examiner rejects claim 3 allegedly because the term "antibody" in line 1 has "no antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim."

Solely to clarify the claimed invention, the applicants cancel claim 3 and respectfully submit in its place a new claim "wherein said non mitogenic anti-CD3 compound is a F(ab')2 fragment."

In paragraph 7, the examiner rejects claim 5 allegedly because recitation of the term "F(ab)2" is "ambiguous and unclear."

Solely to clarify the claimed invention, the applicants substitute the term "F(ab')2" for "F(ab)2" in claim 5.

In paragraph 8, the examiner maintains a rejection of claim 10 for the "improper" recitation of the term "rheumatoïd" in line 2.

The applicants substitute the term "rheumatoid" for the term "rheumatoïd" in claim 10.

In paragraph 9, the examiner rejects claims 14 and 15 for being "ambiguous and unclear in [the] recitation of 'unit dose' in line 3."

The applicants cancel claims 14 and 15. Claim 14 is respectfully replaced with a claim for "an injectable solution delivering between 5 and 20 mg of active compound per day." Claim 15 is respectfully replaced with a claim for "an injectable solution delivering between 5 and 10 mg of active compound per day."

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 11, the examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 13 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chatenoud, *et al.* "as evidenced by" Hughes *et al.*

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. In order to reject a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the examiner must demonstrate that each claim limitation is contained in a single prior art reference. *See Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation v. Genentech, Inc.*, 18 USPQ2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *Hybritech, Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc.*, 231 USPQ 81, 90 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Chatenoud *et al.* teaches the effectiveness of anti-CD3 antibody therapy in establishing immunosuppression in nonobese diabetic mice. The authors indicate that the use of "F(ab')2 fragments of anti-CD3 mAb . . . showed similar *immunosuppressive* activity but only if given at higher doses" [emphasis added] (page 126, Discussion section, second column). The authors propose that the immunosuppression following anti-CD3

treatment is "apparently specific for β-cell-associated antigens," evidenced by the ability of treated mice to reject skin allografts (See the abstract).

In contrast to Chatenoud *et al.*, the claimed invention discloses a method of treatment based on the induction of antigen-specific tolerance by non-mitogenic anti-CD3 compounds. As noted in the specification (particularly page 2), the claimed invention promotes a permanent, antigen-specific immune *unresponsiveness*, as opposed to the non-antigen-specific *immunosuppression* described in the cited reference. Since the methodology promotes permanent, antigen-specific immune unresponsiveness, it is useful for treating autoimmune pathologies other than diabetes, such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis or psoriasis.

The examiner cites Hughes *et al.* as evidence of Chatenoud's *et al.* disclosure. Hughes *et al.* uses a murine collagen-induced arthritis model to demonstrate the induction of helper T-cell hyporesponsiveness by the administration of nonmitogenic anti-CD3 monoclonal antibodies, $F(ab')_2$ fragments. The authors specifically report that their methodology produces non-antigen-specific hyporesponsiveness in helper T-cells (page 3322, bottom of column 2 and page 3323, bottom of column 2). As the reference describes a model of non-antigen specific immunosuppression with no indication of long term tolerance, Hughes *et al.* fails to provide prior evidence of the claimed invention.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 15, the examiner rejects claims 1-15 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Racadot *et al.* in view of Güssow *et al.* and Chatenoud *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. A proper rejection for obviousness under §103 requires consideration of two factors:

> (1)   whether the prior art would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art that they should make the claimed composition, or device, or carry out the claimed process and (2) whether the prior art would also have revealed that in so making or carrying out, those of ordinary skill would have a reasonable expectation of success. Both the suggestion and the reasonable expectation of success must be founded in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.

[emphasis added] *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 493, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the pending case, the examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In paragraph 16, the examiner discusses the methodology of Racadot *et al.* in view of Güssow *et al.* and Chatenoud *et al.* Racadot *et al.* is a general review of the current concepts in the treatment of autoimmune disease with monoclonal antibodies. The examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to alleviate two limitations of the treatment described in Racadot *et al.* by combining the teachings of Güssow *et al.* and Chatenoud *et al.* The examiner also suggests that it would have been recognized by one skilled in the art that "massive cytokine release associated with muromonab-CD3 treatment could be averted through the use of F(ab')$_2$ fragments of the mAb as taught by Chatenoud *et al.*" The examiner further suggests that it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to alleviate the anti-murine complications associated with Racadot's *et al.* treatment by using the teachings of Güssow *et al.* Finally, the examiner suggests that a skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine these references with a reasonable expectation of success to produce the claimed invention, induction of antigen-specific unresponsiveness.

The applicants submit that it would not have been *prima facie* obvious to combine the above mentioned references to produce a method of treating spontaneous and ongoing autoimmune diseases in mammals comprising administering a non-mitogenic anti-CD3 compound to achieve permanent disease remission through the induction of antigen-specific unresponsiveness. Chatenoud *et al.* teaches that F(ab')$_2$ fragments promote non-antigen-specific immunosuppression, not antigen-specific unresponsiveness. Therefore, a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine these references with a reasonable expectation of success to produce the claimed invention. Similarly, the examiner's rejections of claims 6, 10 and 11 should not be maintained as these rejections depend on the rejection of the general method described in claim 1.

In paragraph 16, the examiner rejects claim 6 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable allegedly because it is a "well-known requirement" that highly purified, endotoxin free reagents be used when treating human patients. Applicants respectfully submit that the examiner has not demonstrated that the claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious. In particular, the examiner cites no evidence in support of this rejection.
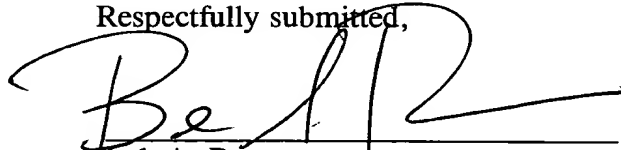
In paragraph 16, the examiner rejects claims 10 and 11 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable allegedly because a "skilled artisan would be able to reasonably predict that the method would be useful for the treatment of any autoimmune condition in which the involvement of T lymphocytes is a major factor in the etiology of

the disease." Applicants respectfully submit that the examiner has not demonstrated that the claimed inventions are *prima facie* obvious. Once again, the examiner cites no evidence which indicates that such a method would have been suggested in the art.

Respectfully submitted,

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Beth A. Burrous
Registration No. 35,087

FOLEY & LARDNER
Suite 500
3000 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
(202) 672-5300

Anti-CD3 antibody induces long-term remission of overt autoimmunity in nonobese diabetic mice

(autoimmunity/diabetes)

LUCIENNE CHATENOUD, ERIC THERVET, JACQUELINE PRIMO, AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS BACH

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale U 25, Hôpital Necker, 161 Rue de Sèvres, 75015 Paris, France

ABSTRACT · Anti-CD3 monoclonal antibodies suppress immune responses by transient T-cell depletion and antigenic modulation of the CD3/T-cell receptor complex. Anti-CD3 treatment of adult nonobese diabetic (NOD) mice, a spontaneous model of T-cell-mediated autoimmune insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, significantly inhibits the autoimmune process. Short-term low-dose anti-CD3 treatment (5 μg/day i.v. for 5 consecutive days) prevented the occurrence of an accelerated form of the disease induced by cyclophosphamide. More unexpectedly, when applied to adult NOD females within 7 days of the onset of full-blown diabetes, the same anti-CD3 regimen induced a complete remission of overt disease (i.e., a return to permanent normoglycemia) in 64–80% of mice. This remission was durable (>4 months) and was not associated with the disappearance of insulitis (mononuclear cell infiltration of the islets). The immunosuppression was apparently specific for β-cell-associated antigens, since mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission rejected histoincompatible skin grafts normally, whereas they did not destroy syngeneic islet grafts, unlike control untreated overtly diabetic NOD females. These results open major therapeutic perspectives. They strongly suggest that self-tolerance can be restored in adult mice once autoimmunity is fully established and confirm that this effect can be obtained by transient targeting of the CD3/T-cell receptor without massive T-cell debulking.

Autoimmune insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) in nonobese diabetic (NOD) mice ensues from progressive loss of self-tolerance to β-cell-associated antigens (1, 2). Immunointervention using monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) targeting one component of the antigen recognition triad constituted by the antigen itself, major histocompatibility complex molecules, and the CD3/T-cell receptor (TCR) complex (and its coreceptors), when applied early in the ontogeny [i.e., in neonates (3, 4) or before the onset of clinical manifestations], has been shown to prevent spontaneous or experimentally induced IDDM [by cell transfer or cyclophosphamide (CY)] (5–9). mAbs so far successfully tested include anti-major histocompatibility complex class II (9), anti-TCR αβ (8), anti-CD3 (3), and anti-CD4 and anti-CD8 (1, 2, 5, 6).

In contrast, treatment of NOD mice with established autoimmunity and full-blown diabetes due to irreversible destruction of a large proportion of the insulin-secreting β-cell mass remains a major challenge. Apart from its obvious clinical interest, the possibility of restoring self-tolerance in overtly autoimmune animals has fundamental implications that are of the utmost importance for our understanding of the mechanisms regulating autoimmune responses.

It has been extensively shown in models of tolerance induction to alloantigens in adult animals that active mechanisms participating in the control of the alloimmune response, afforded by cell-mediated anergy and infectious tolerance, can be triggered by distinct T-cell-directed therapies (10–12).

Our aim was thus to determine whether adult NOD mice are still sensitive to T-cell-directed immunointervention once the autoimmune process has led to significant target tissue damage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mice and Antibodies. NOD (K^d, I-A^{NOD}, D^b) and C57BL/6 (H-2^b) mice were bred in our animal facilities under specific pathogen-free conditions. NOD mice were monitored for glycosuria and fasting glycemia with colorimetric strips (Glukotest and Haemoglukotest-Reflolux F; Boehringer Mannheim). Diabetes was defined as permanent fasting glycemia >4 g/liter.

The hybridoma producing 145 2C11 (hamster IgG, anti-murine CD3) was kindly provided by J. A. Bluestone (Chicago University) (13). The purified endotoxin-free antibody used for in vivo treatment was produced by Celltech (Berkshire, U.K.). Anti-CD3 F(ab')₂ was prepared by conventional pepsin digestion of the entire antibody molecule [2-hr digestion at 37°C in pH 3 buffer, pepsin at a 2% (wt/vol) final concentration]. Digested F(ab')₂ fragments were purified using a Sepharose CL-4B-protein A (Pharmacia) affinity chromatography column followed by an Ultrogel AcA54 column (Pharmacia).

mAb Treatment. (i) Ten-week-old NOD females presenting spontaneous insulitis were treated i.v. with 5 μg of anti-CD3 on 5 consecutive days. Controls received normal hamster immunoglobulins. Pancreata were collected at various times, and serial sections were stained with hematoxylin/eosin to score mononuclear cell infiltration.

(ii) Nondiabetic 8-week-old NOD males and females received two CY (Endoxan-Asta, Laboratoires Lucie, Colombes, France) injections [200 mg/kg (1 mg/ml in saline) i.p.] 14 days apart. In CY-treated mice anti-CD3 treatment was started 1 day prior to the second CY injection (day 14) and administered for 5 consecutive days at a low dose (5 μg/day i.v. from day 13 to day 17). Anti-CD3 F(ab')₂ fragments were administered for an identical period but at higher doses (10 or 50 μg/day i.v. from day 13 to day 17). Controls received normal hamster immunoglobulins. The animals were tested for the appearance of diabetes.

(iii) Mice showing stable glycosuria and fasting glycemia >4 g/liter on two consecutive occasions were considered diabetic and randomized to receive either anti-CD3 (5 μg/day for 5 consecutive days) or normal hamster immunoglobulins. Complete remission was defined as the disappearance of glycosuria and a return to normal glycemia.

Abbreviations: NOD, nonobese diabetic; mAb, monoclonal antibody; CY, cyclophosphamide; IDDM, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus; TCR, T-cell receptor.

The distribution of the main T-cell subsets was monitored using the T-cell-specific mAbs CD3 (145 2C11), TCR $\alpha\beta$ (H57 597), CD4 (GK1.5), CD8 (YTS 169), and CD116/CD18 (Mac1). Fluorescent cells were scored using a flow cytometer (FACScan, Becton Dickinson).

Skin and Islet Grafting. Pellets of 500–700 islets, isolated from male NOD pancreas using conventional collagenase digestion and Ficoll gradient separation (14), were transplanted under the recipient's kidney capsule. Islet survival was evaluated by blood glucose measurement.
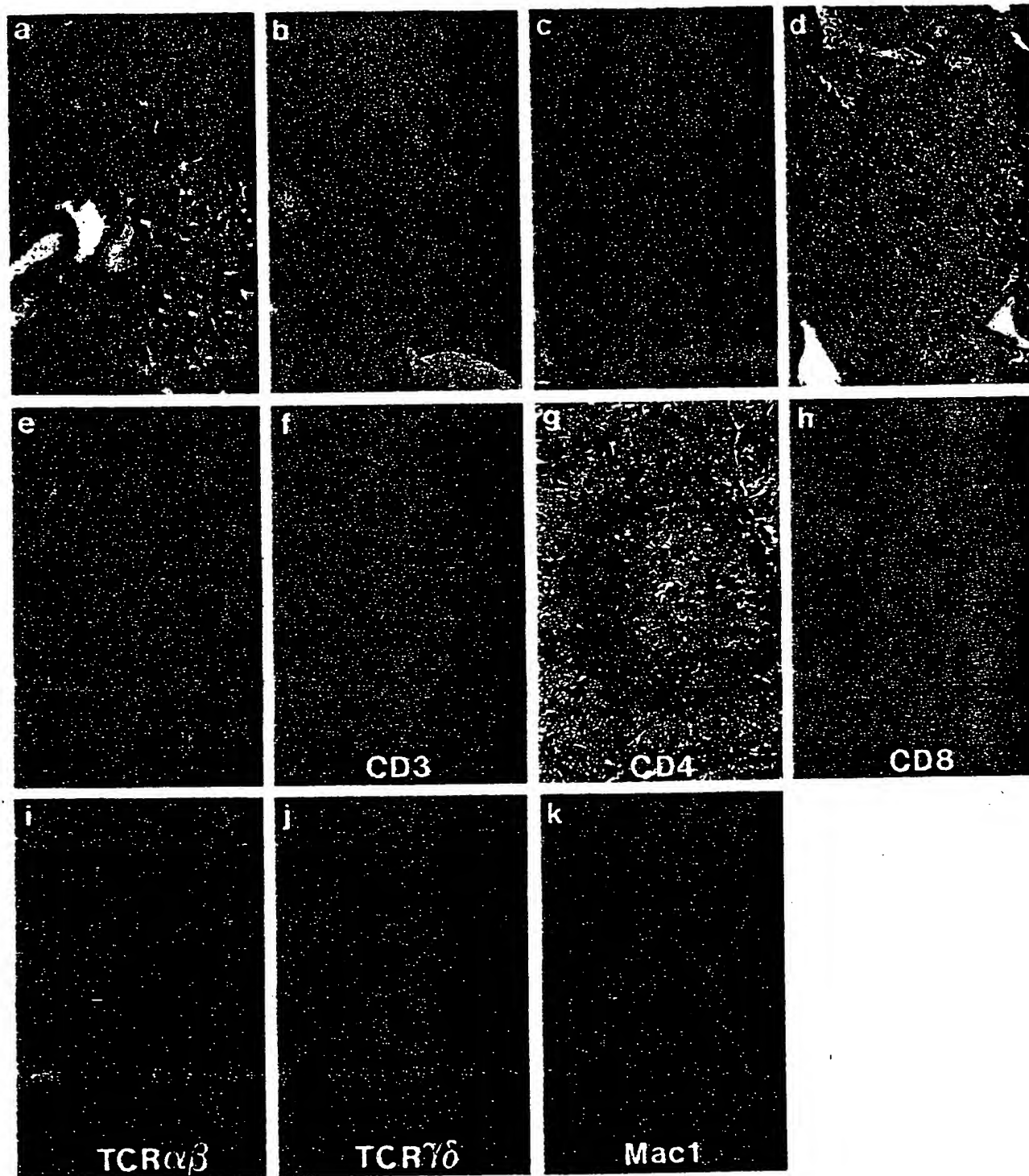

FIG. 1. Histological and immunohistochemical analysis of insulitis in mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission. (a–d) Progressive development of spontaneous full-blown insulitis in untreated NOD mice (hematoxylin/eosin staining). According to our histological scores of infiltration, the microphotographs show: normal islets (grade 0; a), focal or peripheral insulitis (no destruction of endocrine cells) (grade 1; b and c), and invasive destructive insulitis (d). (e–k) Insulitis pattern observed in mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission. Immunostaining of distinct cell subsets (f–k) was performed using mAbs against CD3 (145 2C11), TCR $\alpha\beta$ (H57 597), TCR $\gamma\delta$, CD4 (GK 1.5), CD8 (YTS 169) (15), and Mac1. In euglycemic mice (n = 14) 10–20 weeks after anti-CD3 treatment, a mean of 40% infiltrated islets was observed. Of these, the vast majority [34% ± 16.6% (mean ± SD) out of the 40%] presented focal or peripheral (grade 1) insulitis (e shows a representative islet). Panels f–h correspond to this same islet stained with different mAbs; the infiltrate included CD3+ (f), CD4+ (g), and CD8+ (h) cells. (i–k) A second islet. The microphotographs show that CD3+ infiltrating cells are TCR $\alpha\beta$+ (i); TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells were almost absent (j); very few Mac1+ cells were detected.

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'roc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91 (1994) 125

C57BL/6 mice were used as donors. Tail skin grafts (0.5 cm × 0.5 cm) were transplanted onto the lateral thoracic wall of the recipient and then covered with gauze for the first few days. Graft survival was documented daily starting on the fourth day.

Statistical Analysis. Results were analyzed using the χ^2 test or the nonparametric Mann and Whitney U test, as appropriate.

RESULTS

Effect of Anti-CD3 Treatment on Spontaneous Insulitis and CY-Induced Diabetes. Before treatment, 37% of islets in NOD females showed infiltration [mean ± SEM: 25.3% ± 4.1% grade 1 and 11.7% ± 6.2% grade 2 (Fig. 1) insulitis] (Fig. 2a). A significant fall in the proportion of islets showing grade 1 insulitis (22% ± 6.4% vs. 47% ± 2.9% in controls; $P < 0.001$)

and grade 2 ins⬤⬤ (2% ± 2% vs. 13.7% ± 2.3% in controls; $P < 0.001$) was observed at the end of anti-CD3 treatment (day 6), but reinvasion started by day 10 (Fig. 2a).

As shown on Fig. 2 *b–d*, a 5-day treatment with 1 w-dose anti-CD3 (5 μg/day i.v.) or anti-CD3 F(ab')₂ (50 μg/day i.v.) starting 1 day prior to the second CY injection (days 13–17) reproducibly prevented or reversed CY-induced diabetes (Fig. 2 *b–d*).

Anti-CD3-Induced Remission of Established Diabetes in NOD Females. Overt diabetes in NOD females was identified by twice-weekly screening for glycosuria; when glycosuric mice were tested for hyperglycemia. Mice showing fasting glycemia >4 g/liter on two consecutive occasions were randomized (to avoid sampling bias) to receive short-term low-dose treatment with either anti-CD3 (5 μg/day for 5 consecutive days) or normal hamster immunoglobulins. Progressive remission of established disease—namely, disap-
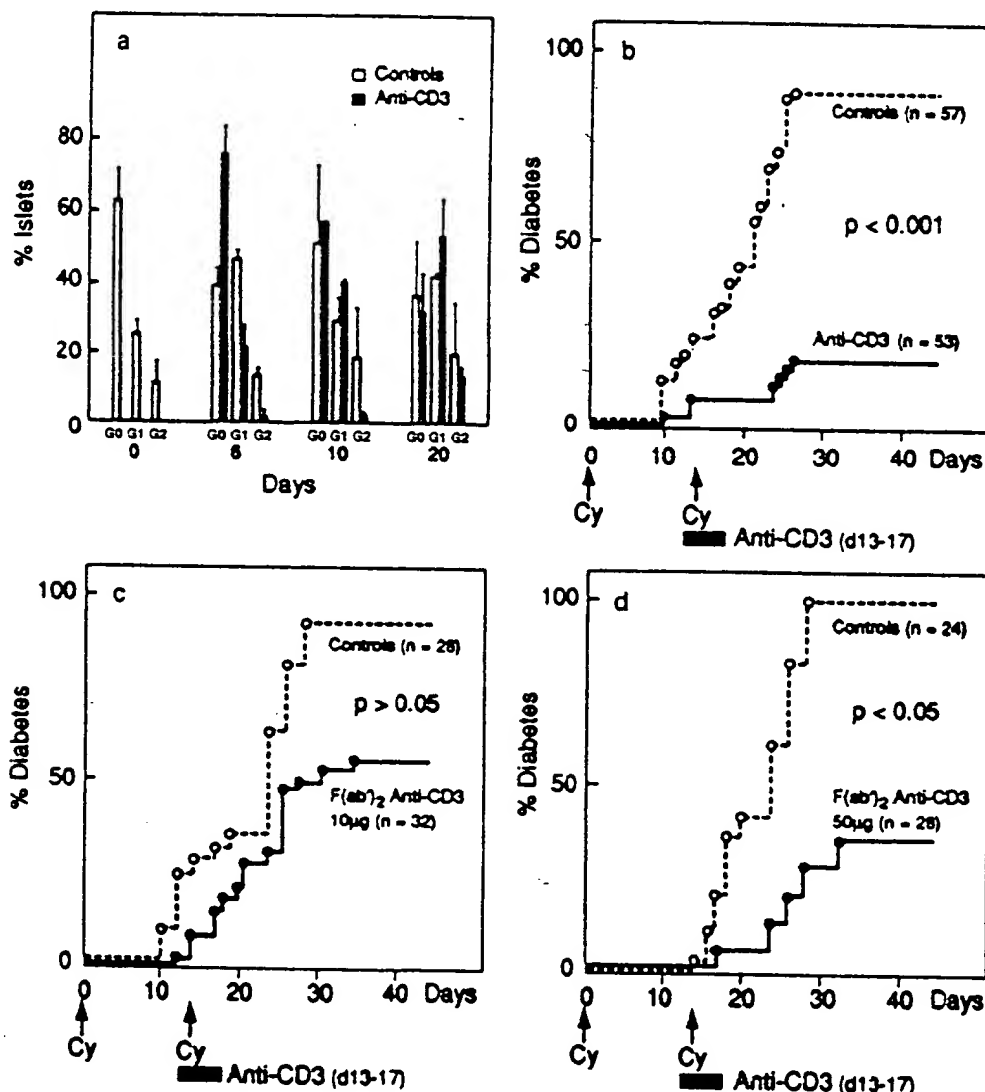

FIG. 2. Low-dose anti-CD3 treatment of spontaneous insulitis and CY-induced diabetes. (a) Effect of anti-CD3 treatment on spontaneous insulitis. A significant fall in the proportion of islets showing grade 1 (G1) or grade 2 (G2) insulitis was observed at the end of anti-CD3 treatment (day 6), but gradual reinvasion started by day 10. G0, grade 0 (normal islets). Spleen T-cell subsets were monitored in NOD mice treated with anti-CD3; results are expressed as percentages. Day 0: CD3⁺, 78.4 ± 2.7; CD4⁺, 52.6 ± 2.2; CD8⁺, 24 ± 1.5. Day 13: CD3⁺, 40.2 ± 1.8; CD4⁺, 33.7 ± 4.5; CD8⁺, 30.1 ± 1.4; deduced percentages of CD3⁻ CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ antigenically modulated cells, 23.6. Day 30: CD3⁺, 65.3 ± 2.6; CD4⁺, 48.3 ± 3.8; CD8⁺, 16.6 ± 2.5; absence of CD3⁻ antigenically modulated cells. (b) Effect of anti-CD3 treatment on CY-induced IDDM. Results represent cumulated data from five different experiments. They were analyzed using the χ^2 test. (c and d) Effect of anti-CD3 F(ab')₂ treatment on CY-induced IDDM. Results represent cumulated data from three (c) and two (d) different experiments. They were analyzed using the χ^2 test. Spleen T-cell subsets were monitored in NOD mice treated with anti-CD3 F(ab')₂ fragments; results are expressed as percentages. Day 0: CD3⁺, 82.1 ± 2.2; CD4⁺, 52.4 ± 3.3; CD8⁺, 27.5 ± 1.7. Day 13: CD3⁺, 52.5 ± 2.6; CD4⁺, 39.1 ± 2.7; CD8⁺, 28.3 ± 1.9; deduced percentage of CD3⁻ CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ antigenically modulated cells, 14.9%. Day 20: CD3⁺, 84.3 ± 1.6; CD4⁺, 52.4 ± 2.0; CD8⁺, 27.8 ± 1.8; absence of CD3⁻ antigenically modulated cells.

pearance of glycosuria and a return to normal glycemia—was noted in 64–80% of anti-CD3-treated mice within 2–4 weeks of the last mAb injection (Fig. 3). Interestingly, focal or peripheral insulitis was observed in mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission (Fig. 1 *e–k*).

Syngeneic Islet Graft Survival in NOD Mice Showing Anti-CD3-Induced Remission. Fresh syngeneic islets were transplanted under the kidney capsule of mice still overtly diabetic 6–10 weeks after the end of anti-CD3 treatment (as shown in Fig. 3, 20–36% of anti-CD3-treated NOD mice did not enter metabolic remission) as well as control mice (overtly diabetic NOD females not treated with anti-CD3). Syngeneic islets transplanted into the controls were destroyed within 2–4 days but survived well in anti-CD3-treated animals and led to full metabolic reconstitution (Fig. 4).

Allogeneic Skin Graft Rejection in NOD Mice Showing Anti-CD3-Induced Remission. Allogeneic skin graft survival was identical in mice showing stable anti-CD3-induced remission (9–19 weeks after the end of anti-CD3 treatment) and in age-matched controls (Table 1).

DISCUSSION

Anti-CD3 mAbs are potent immunosuppressive agents that essentially act by reversibly clearing CD3/TCR complexes from the T-cell membrane by antigenic modulation (16, 17). Short-term low-dose anti-CD3 treatment thus precludes the prolonged T-cell depletion observed with polyclonal anti-lymphocyte antibodies and some anti-CD4 or anti-CD8 mAbs (5, 10).

We first determined the dose of anti-CD3 that is well tolerated by adult NOD mice. In fact, in adult mice, the first anti-CD3 injection causes an acute physical syndrome linked to a monocyte-dependent T-cell activation leading to massive cytokine release (18, 19). A dose of 5 μg per injection was selected.

We then assessed the capacity of this dose given for 5 consecutive days to influence the course of established
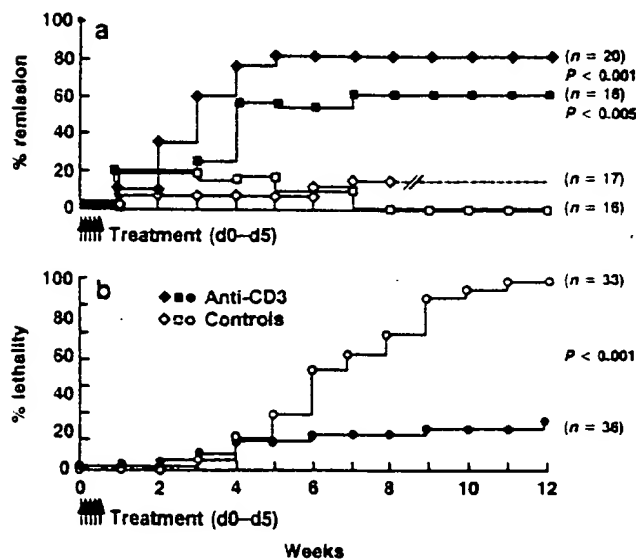

FIG. 3. Anti-CD3-induced remission of established diabetes in NOD females. Overtly diabetic NOD mice (stable fasting glycemia >4 g/liter) were randomized to receive either anti-CD3 (5 μg/day for 5 consecutive days) or normal hamster immunoglobulins. Complete remission was defined as the disappearance of glycosuria and a return to normal glycemia. Results were analyzed using the χ^2 test. Actuarial curves of remission (*a*) and mortality (*b*) in anti-CD3-treated and control mice are shown. The data in *a* correspond to two independent experiments in which 37 and 32 mice were randomized (90 and 110 mice were initially screened for diabetes). The data in *b* represent the cumulated data from the two experiments.
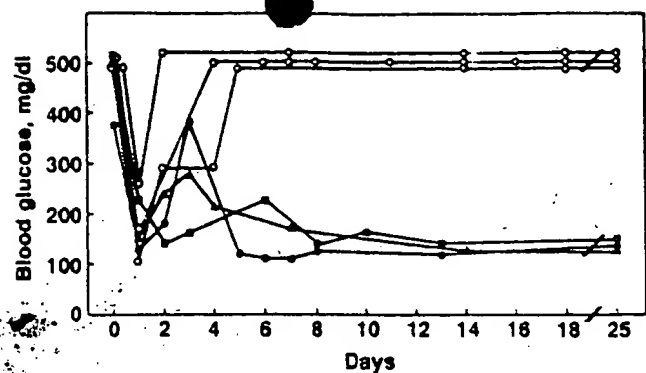

FIG. 4. Survival of syngeneic islet transplants in mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission. Fresh NOD islets were transplanted under the kidney capsule of mice still overtly diabetic 6–10 weeks after the end of anti-CD3 treatment (solid curves). These islets showed prolonged survival and allowed full metabolic reconstitution; the follow-up of three representative animals is presented. In control animals (untreated overtly diabetic NOD females; dotted curves), syngeneic islets were rapidly destroyed.

spontaneous insulitis in NOD mice. Spontaneous diabetes in our breeding colony appears at 15–28 weeks of age in 50–60% of females and is preceded by insulitis, which develops by 5–8 weeks. A 5-day course of anti-CD3 (5 μg/day) in 10-week-old NOD females induced a significant reduction in insulitis. However, this effect was transient: within 2 weeks of the last injection, the insulitis pattern was identical in anti-CD3-treated and control animals.

We then examined the effect of anti-CD3 on the course of an accelerated model of IDDM induced by CY (20, 21). Anti-CD3 treatment started 1 day prior to the second CY injection—when ≈15–20% of mice are already diabetic—was highly effective both in preventing progression to IDDM and in reversing overt disease. F(ab')$_2$ fragments of anti-CD3 mAb, as already reported in other models (22), showed similar immunosuppressive activity but only if given at higher doses.

These data extend to an autoimmune model our previous observation that this short-term low-dose anti-CD3 treatm nt is highly effective in prolonging the survival of a fully mismatched skin allograft (23).

The same protocol was used to determine whether anti-CD3 could stop the progression of spontaneous ongoing autoimmune IDDM. Overtly diabetic mice were randomized to receive either anti-CD3 or irrelevant hamster immunoglobulins. As reflected by the disappearance of glycosuria and a return to normal glycemia, diabetes regressed in 64% and 80% of the anti-CD3-treated mice in two independent experiments. This remission was significantly more frequent than the rare, transient remission observed in control NOD mice treated with irrelevant hamster immunoglobulins. Th anti-CD3-induced remissions presented a number of unexpected features: (*i*) they developed over 2–4 weeks, suggesting the participation of active phenomena, (*ii*) the effect was durable (until sacrifice at >4 months), (*iii*) remission was

Table 1. Skin allograft rejection in anti-CD3-treated and control mice

Mice	Mean $\pm$ SD survival time, days
Anti-CD3 treated*	10.2 $\pm$ 1.8
Controls†	10.4 $\pm$ 1.2

*NOD females showing IDDM remission 8–19 weeks after the end of anti-CD3 treatment received a C57BL/6 skin transplant (*n* = 6).
†Age-matched NOD females, not treated with anti-CD3, received a C57BL/6 skin transplant (*n* = 6).

Immunology: Chatenoud et al.

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91 (1994) 127

associated with only partial a⬛ransient T-cell depletion (CD3+ cell counts returned t normal 15–20 days after the end of treatment), and (iv) clinical remission was maintained despite the presence of peripheral (but not invasive/ destructive) insulitis including CD3+ TCR $\alpha\beta^+$ CD4+ CD8+ cells, assessed 10–20 weeks after anti-CD3 treatment. Importantly, mice showing anti-CD3-induced remission were not globally immunocompromised since they had a normal capacity to reject skin allografts. In contrast, anti-CD3-treated animals did not destroy syngeneic islet grafts, further stressing the specificity of the anti-CD3-induced remission for β-cell-associated antigens. Recurrence of the autoimmune disease is usually observed within a few days when syngeneic islets grafts are implanted into untreated overtly diabetic NOD mice. The survival of syngeneic islets, which implies anti-CD3-mediated arrest of the autoimmune process, was independent of metabolic status. Indeed, syngeneic islets led to full metabolic reconstitution of NOD mice that were still diabetic 4 to 5 weeks after anti-CD3 treatment. This points to an essential pitfall of this model of established diabetes when metabolic reconstitution (reversal of hyperglycemic diabetic disease that is directly correlated to the available insulin-secreting β-cell mass) is taken as the only index of autoimmune status. Thus, mice showing anti-CD3-mediated arrest of the autoimmune process may still be hyperglycemic if the β-cell mass left at the time of treatment is insufficient to guarantee metabolic reconstitution (i.e., a return to normoglycemia).

Similar data have recently been reported by Maki *et al.* (24), who used polyclonal anti-lymphocyte serum or a combination of depleting anti-CD4 and anti-CD8 mAbs. However, at variance with our study, profound and prolonged T-cell depletion was required to achieve long-term remission of established diabetes. In addition, in Maki's study the diabetic mice also received insulin, which may have contributed to the preservation of remnant β cells, since insulin therapy can promote remission in human IDDM (25). It is also worth noting that treatment with high doses of an anti-TCR mAb achieved only transient remission of established diabetes in NOD females (8).

To our knowledge, our results provide the first indication that a short course of anti-CD3 given alone can restore self-tolerance in adult mice with established autoimmune diabetes. The effect is obtained at a very advanced stage of the disease process when, on the basis of indirect evidence, >70% of β cells have been destroyed.

The mechanism leading to the establishment of such long-term remission is unclear. Although direct testing for tolerance would imply the use of the triggering autoantigen(s), the nature of which is elusive despite the interesting candidates recently proposed (1, 2), the results of syngeneic islet and allogeneic skin transplants strongly argue for the specificity of the anti-CD3-induced unresponsiveness. Extrapolating from other experimental situations (10–12), it is tempting to speculate that T-cell anergy or active T-cell-mediated suppressor circuits are active in our model. It is also possible that anti-CD3-induced T-cell activation participates in this effect.

Hayward and Shreiber (3) obtained permanent protection from diabetes by injecting NOD neonates with large, single doses of anti-CD3. However, at that age the antibody probably had a direct effect on either intrathymic T-cell education or on T-cell selection in the periphery. Neonatal anti-CD3 treatment totally prevented the occurrence of insulitis (3),

whereas in ou⬛lt model anti-CD3-induced remission did not correlate with the disappearance of insulitis.

If confirmed in humans, our results will open a new era in the immunotherapy of autoimmune diabetes. The possibility of avoiding continuous therapy would eliminate the risks of toxicity and long-term overimmunosuppression associated with most immunointervention regimens so far proposed for IDDM.

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